

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP2003/009809 filed September 4, 2003**

In the Specification:

Please amend the instant Specification, without prejudice, as follows:

Please delete all text above line 13 of page 1.

At page 1, above line 13, please add the following new section headings and title of the invention:

--TITLE OF THE INVENTION

**Methods of Treating Dermal/Epidermal Junctions
and Cosmetic Preparations for Use Therein**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

At page 3, at line 18 thereof, please delete the section heading "Description of the Invention", and insert the following new section heading and new paragraph:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to cosmetic preparations and, more particularly, to a process for improving and/or for protecting the dermal/epidermal junctions of the skin, scalp and mucous membrane and for protecting the human skin against ageing, oxidative stress and against the harmful effects of environmental toxins and UV radiation. The invention also relates to the use of a substance which effects a modulation of plectin/HD1 and/or entacin/nidogen and/or perlecan for the production of cosmetic preparations for improving and/or for protecting the dermal/epidermal junctions.--

At page 5, between lines 10 and 11 thereof, please insert the following new section heading: